

Remarks

The Examiner has rejected claims 2, 3, 5–21, 23, 24, and 26–37. Claims 1, 4, 22, and 25 were previously canceled. As a result, claims 2, 3, 5–21, 23, 24, and 26–37 are pending for examination with claims 3, 13, 18, 24, 33, and 35 being independent claims. No amendments have been made and no new matter has been added.

The following rejections have been made of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

I. Claims 2, 3, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fowlow (U.S. Patent 6,260,078; hereafter “Fowlow”) in view of Pekowski (U.S. Patent 6,769,126; hereafter “Pekowski”); and

II. Claims 6–21, 23, 24, and 26–37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fowlow and Pekowski, in further view of King (U.S. Patent 6,681,263; hereafter “King”).

Applicants respectfully traverse rejections I and II because Fowlow, even in view of Pekowski and King, fails to teach at least one of the claim elements of independent claims 3, 13, 18, 24, 33, and 35. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that rejections I and II listed above be withdrawn. Specifically, in rejections I and II the Examiner erroneously equates the “Namespace” element of claims 3, 13, 18, 24, 33, and 35 with the “network class loader, java interpreter” of Fowlow. (FOA, page 2, last paragraph)

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Claims 3, 13, 18, 24, 33, and 35 call for:

“...a Namespace...” (underlining added for emphasis)

Applicants submit that the invention as claimed in claims 3, 13, 18, 24, 33, and 35 is neither taught, described nor suggested in Fowlow, even in view of Pekowski and King. Specifically the “Namespace” element of claims 3, 13, 18, 24, 33, and 35 is different than the “network class loader, java interpreter” of Fowlow.

The present invention provides:

“Namespaces are used to let applications gain access to objects provided by other components. A namespace is like a filesystem directory tree, except it can hold any kind of objects, not just files. Namespaces can themselves be implemented by different components, including a filesystem that exports its directories as sub-namespaces, and files as registered objects. Namespaces can be registered into other namespaces, extending the directory tree.” (Original specification, page 29, starting line 5, underlining added for emphasis)

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Fowlow, on the other hand provides:

“The network class loader 304 is a mechanism that allows a Java client to load and define new classes at run time. It also has functionality to allow classes to be resolved. If a downloaded class uses other classes that are not currently known or defined within the Java client, these other classes must be found and loaded (“resolved”).” (Fowlow, column 12, lines 48–54, underlining added for emphasis)

“Thus, in step 403, the network class loader (NCL) queries the naming service in order to determine the appropriate class server.” (Fowlow, column 13, lines 24–26, underlining added for emphasis)

“Once this execution code for class name has been retrieved, it is delivered to the network class loader within the Java client in step 410. Next, in step 412, the NCL passes this execution code to the Java interpreter. At this point, because the recently loaded class may use other classes, the Java interpreter must resolve any undefined class references. ...then in step 418 the Java interpreter asks the NCL for the execution code of a first unresolved class. From step 418 the procedure loops back to step 408 in which the NCL requests from the class server the appropriate class execution code. In this fashion, this

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portion of FIG. 4 may loop through steps 408 to 418 until all execution code has been retrieved for all unresolved classes.” (Fowlow, column 13, lines 43–67, underlining added for emphasis)

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the “Namespace” element of claim 3 is different than the “network class loader, java interpreter” of Fowlow. Therefore claim 3 is patentable over Fowlow, even in view of Pekowski.

Claims 2 and 5 are dependent on claim 3. As such, claims 2 and 5 are believed allowable based upon independent claim 3.

Applicants further submit that the “Namespace” element of claims 3, 18, 24, 33, and 35 is different than the “network class loader, java interpreter” of Fowlow. Therefore claims 13, 18, 24, 33, and 35 are patentable over Fowlow, even in view of Pekowski and King.

Claims 14–17 are dependent on claim 13. As such, claims 14–17 are believed allowable based upon independent claim 13.

Claims 19–21 are dependent on claim 18. As such, claims 19–21 are believed allowable based upon independent claim 18.

Claims 23 and 26–32 are dependent on claim 24. As such, claims 23 and 26–32 are believed allowable based upon independent claim 24.

Claim 34 is dependent on claim 33. As such, claim 34 is believed allowable based upon independent claim 33.

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Claims 36–37 are dependent on claim 35. As such, claims 36–37 are believed allowable based upon independent claim 35.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendment and remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Reconsideration and reexamination of the above Application is requested. Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully requests that the pending claims be allowed, and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

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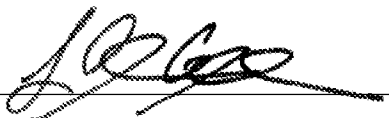
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If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0463.

Respectfully submitted,

Microsoft Corporation

Date: May 30, 2006

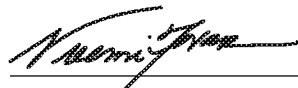
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Attorney Docket Number: 116650.07